

for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. BACHMANN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and the service and the memory of Officer Tommy Decker of Cold Spring, Minnesota.

On November 29, Officer Tommy Decker was tragically killed in the line of duty, and he was only 31 years old. Officer Decker served with distinction. In 6 years at the Cold Spring Police Department, he received no less than six commendations and letters of appreciation. He touched so many lives in his distinguished career. The overwhelming outpouring of community love and support at the funeral, where there were over 3,000 police cars, was an amazing sight to behold, and I was privileged to be there.

In honor of Officer Decker's service, I'm proud to join with all of Minnesota's colleagues to introduce legislation to rename his hometown post office the Officer Tommy Decker Memorial Post Office. We hope to complete that soon.

And though he is no longer with us, Officer Decker's example of unparalleled courage and compassion lives on, and I pray that his four young children will grow up to know just how much their father meant to the people of Minnesota and what a remarkable hero and an example he was to us all.

□ 1220

PREVENTING THE NEXT SANDY HOOK TRAGEDY

(Ms. KAPTUR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, in our continuing efforts to turn the tragic events at Newtown to high purpose, I include in the RECORD today two articles from the USA Today newspaper, one entitled, "A Boy Lost in the Shadows," and another, "Newtown Puts Mental Services in Spotlight."

These articles remind me of a conversation I had a few years ago with a caring grade-school teacher from my own district who became quite frustrated with the local school system's inability to help her manage the behavior of a child in her elementary classroom. After repeated attempts that took 3 years—and let me emphasize 3 years—the teacher was able to have the child referred to behavioral specialists and placed in a more appropriate learning environment.

As a society, we seem to lack the methods to identify troubled youth and to put them on a proper path early to healing. Too often, a child is left floundering due to our collective inability to help him find a constructive path forward. Many of our local boards of education often are not properly equipped to identify and assist children who are uncivil or who are completely alienated in their surroundings.

Mr. Speaker, I was very pleased with the President's announcement the

other night, that of a commission on youth violence to be formed to look into what is happening across our country; let us hope that it provides a national forum to listen to those voices among us who grapple with these human challenges every day. This must be our responsibility to future generations.

A CALL FOR ACTION AGAINST GUN VIOLENCE

(Mr. PAYNE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise first to offer my deepest condolences to the families of the victims in the recent Sandy Hook Elementary tragedy. In addition, I add my voice to the outcry of my colleagues, constituents, and Americans around the Nation to call for action against gun violence in this country. This Connecticut tragedy was the 30th mass murder in the U.S. since the 1999 Columbine incident, but mass murders only represent a small portion of the gun violence in America. In my hometown of Newark, New Jersey, 348 shootings and 93 deaths occurred last year as a result of gun violence.

Unfortunately, it is too late to save these victims, but it is not too late to prevent the next attack. With stricter gun laws and the ban on certain types of guns, specifically assault weapons, carnage clips, and armor-piercing bullets, it would undoubtedly help to save lives. Now is the time for action.

PREVENTING ANOTHER SANDY HOOK MASSACRE

(Ms. DEGETTE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DEGETTE. Mr. Speaker, last Friday, 20 beautiful children and their loving teachers were shot by a deranged man with an assault rifle that had a high-capacity magazine. The time has come for us to have a national conversation about this—about mental health, about the community issues, about school safety, and about these types of weapons.

Now, we know we are never going to be able to stop disturbed individuals from going into a school or a movie theater or a shopping mall to do harm, but we can slow them down. We don't have to give them so many bullets in high-capacity clips so that they can shoot 26 people in 10 minutes multiple times. We can take those away, and that will give people a fighting chance. By limiting those clips, we can save lives.

We can start right now by doing that, Mr. Speaker. There is a bill which Congresswoman MCCARTHY, Congresswoman MALONEY, and I are sponsoring. We can pass the bill this week on a bipartisan basis, and we can tell the moms and dads of America that it's a first step to keeping their kids safe.

FIXING THE ECONOMY

(Ms. DELBENE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. DELBENE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call on us to work together quickly.

We have an opportunity to accelerate the Nation's recovery, create jobs, and reduce our deficit but only if we are willing to do it together and take a balanced approach. Failing to do so will hurt millions of families and will create unnecessary uncertainty for small businesses.

We will be hurting families like Blaine and Jeannie Parks, with whom I met last weekend at their home in Redmond, Washington. Blaine is a truck driver, and Jeannie works at an elementary school. Blaine also owns a small fishing guide company. They told me how worried they are about higher taxes and cuts to programs they count on, like our schools. They work hard, pay their fair share; and for them a tax hike would make it harder for them to make ends meet. It would hurt Blaine's business and would prevent them from taking care of basic things like simple repairs to their home.

I hope that the next time I see the Parks family, I will be able to say that Congress came together, saved them from a tax hike, and got our economy back on track.

EXTEND THE MIDDLE CLASS TAX CUTS

(Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. On behalf of the citizens of the Fourth Congressional District of Georgia, I wish to extend our condolences to the people of the great State of Connecticut. Please know that you are in our thoughts and prayers.

Mr. Speaker, unless this Congress acts, taxes will go up on the middle class by \$2,200 starting in January 2013. As time is wasted, tax cuts for 98 percent of Americans are being held hostage in order to give more tax breaks to the wealthy. It is ridiculous to hold the whole Nation hostage to protect the top 2 percent of Americans, and it is more egregious to continue offering plans that would balance the budget on the backs of the middle class.

I ask my friends on the other side of the aisle to extend the middle class tax cuts, sending the American people a hopeful message of compromise during this holiday season.

SENIOR CITIZENS ARE COLLATERAL DAMAGE

(Ms. BROWN of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Social Security has nothing to do with the debt